

established herself as the premier athlete in her field. Each time she reaches a new personal best mark, she rewrites the world record. In fact, while competing on her home turf at this summer's U.S. Olympic Trials in Sacramento, she set the current world record 15'2¼". By continually raising the bar, Stacy has forced her competitors to push their own limits as well. This resulted in an exciting duel at this month's Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. In the end, Dragila brought home the gold with a vault of 15'1".

At the age of 29, Stacy Dragila stands as an Olympic champion and as an American hero. Furthermore, as a pioneer in a new sport, she stands as a role model for those young women who will strive to match her achievements on the field. Perhaps most importantly, however, she is, by all accounts, a world-class person as well as a world-class athlete. Today, I proudly join with Americans everywhere in saluting gold medalist Stacy Dragila.

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#### INDIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD STOP ITS STATE TERRORISM

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#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, a letter from the Council of Khalistan was published in the Washington Times. It details the propaganda spread by the Indian government to discredit its opponents.

That propaganda is necessary for the Indian government to cover up the atrocities and state terrorism against Christians, Sikhs, and other minorities. Former Indian cabinet minister R.L. Bhatia admitted in 1995 that the Indian government is spending "large sums of money" to spread this propaganda and influence affairs in the United States.

Earlier this month, militant Hindu fundamentalists attacked the home of a priest. They beat him and his servant. The servant was beaten so badly that he died. Unfortunately, this kind of thing is not unusual. It is just the latest in a series of atrocities carried out by organizations under the umbrella of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling BJP. While Prime Minister Vajpayee was in New York during his recent visit to the U.S., he said, "I will always be a Swayamsewak."

Last week, former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said that there is no difference between the ruling BJP and the supposedly secular Congress Party. Unfortunately, from the point of view of the minorities in India, it is true. There is no difference. Whoever is in power, the repression continues. India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Dalit "untouchables" and other minorities. Thousands of Sikhs and other minorities are in illegal detention without charge or trial simply because they are opposed to the government, or because they are members of a minority.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for India to stop its state terrorism against the minorities within its

borders. We must stop American aid to India and declare our support for self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and the other nations seeking their freedom, in the form of a free and fair democratic plebiscite. These measures are the only ones we can take that will help to bring real freedom and democracy to the people of South Asia. I submit the following article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, Sept. 27, 2000]

NO MILITANTS IN THE COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN

Manpreet Singh Nibber's Sept. 16 letter, "India human rights criticism from unreliable source?" is so full of disinformation that he must be fronting for the Indian Embassy in its effort to confuse the American people.

Mr. Nibber, who is a member of the Punjab Welfare Council of the USA, does not address any of the facts we brought up in our last letter. Instead, he spreads Indian disinformation about the Council of Khalistan and its origins. He knows there are no "militants" involved in the council. We consistently support the liberation of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on Oct. 7, 1987, by democratic, nonviolent means, through the Sikh tradition of "Shantmai morchha," or peaceful agitation.

The Indian Embassy has interfered in American elections, calling for the re-election of former Sen. Larry Pressler and attempting to damage the re-election campaign of Sen. Robert Torricelli. A few years ago, the Indian Embassy was caught giving illegal campaign donations to members of Congress through an immigration lawyer named Lalit Gadhia, who pleaded guilty to the scheme in federal court.

There are many other Gadhias throughout this country. Former Indian cabinet minister R.L. Bhatia admitted in a 1995 news conference that the Indian government is spending "large sums of money" through the embassy to influence American politics. But what is that money defending?

On Sept. 8, militant Hindus attacked the home of a priest and beat the priest and his servant. The servant was so severely beaten that he died of the injuries. On Aug. 25, News stories reported that militant Hindu nationalists kidnapped and tortured a priest in Gujarat, then paraded him naked through town. This attack was part of a wave of terror against Christians since Christmas 1998.

Incidents have included the murder of priests, the rape of nuns and the burning to death of nuns and the burning to death of a missionary and his two sons in their van by members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sang (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Schools and prayer halls have been attacked and destroyed. The individuals who raped the nuns were described by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a militant organization within the RSS, as "patriotic youth." The RSS was founded in support of fascism.

In March, 35 Sikhs were murdered in the village of Chithi Singh-pora in Kashmir. Two extensive independent investigations, one conducted by the Movement Against State Repression and the Punjab Human Rights Organization and another conducted by the Ludhiana-based International Human Rights Organization, proved that the Indian government was responsible for this massacre.

The Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures published in Inderjit Singh Jaijee's

"The Politics of Genocide." India also has killed more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988 and tens of thousands of other minorities. Amnesty International reports that thousands of political prisoners are being held without charge or trial in "the world's largest democracy."

India is hostile to the United States. It votes against America at the United Nations more often than any country except Cuba.

In May 1999, the Indian Express reported that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes led a meeting with Cuba, China, Iraq, Serbia, Russia and Libya to construct a security alliance "to stop the U.S."

India openly supported the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. Its nuclear weapons test started the nuclear arms race in South Asia. It refuses to allow the Sikhs, Kashmiris, Christians and other minority nations seeking their freedom to decide their political future in a free and fair vote, the democratic way.

America must not accept this kind of brutality and tyranny from a government that claims to be democratic. We must cut off aid and trade to India and support a free and fair plebiscite to ensure human rights and self-determination for Khalistan, Christian Nagalim, Kashmir and all the minority nations and peoples living under Indian rule.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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#### HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 503, 504 and 505, I was not present as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

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#### A LETTER TO MY SONS

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#### HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, in the final days of the 106th Congress and my time here in the House, I rise today to pass these words on to my sons.

October 5, 2000.

DEAR MARSHALL, LANDON, BOLTON AND BLAKE: I wanted to write this letter so that maybe in twenty years or maybe after I have died you could look it up and think about how much your Dad loves you. I write this letter as much as anything because I feel the need to pause and praise each of you and to say how proud I am of you and how much, again, I love you.

That's needed because over the last seven years all you have known is a world tied to politics. For each of the words I spoke into the record on the House floor, or in Committee, I couldn't expand time and also fill those minutes and hours with words to each of you. Each of the days I spent in Washington were days I couldn't spend with you. Each of the evenings I spent at political events were evenings I couldn't spend with you. I apologize for our time apart. Each of you as young men will one day discover your calling—why God put you here—and in turn